



**USAID | MACEDONIA**  
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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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Press office: +389 (0)2 308-0446

Cell phone: +389 (0)70 367547

Email: [bvelickovska@usaid.gov](mailto:bvelickovska@usaid.gov)

<http://macedonia.usaid.gov>

## PRESS RELEASE

### US Pledges Support for Macedonia's Primary Schools

Through a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed today by Patricia Rader, United States Agency for International Development (USAID) Mission Director, and Sulejman Rushiti, Macedonia's Minister of Education and Science (MoES), the American people pledged to provide funds to the Ministry to upgrade primary education in Macedonia. USAID is part of the U.S. Mission to Macedonia.

"USAID is committed to quality education for Macedonia's future," said Patricia Rader, USAID Mission Director.

USAID's five year Primary Education Project plans to provide a portion of the funding for the renovation of up to 100 primary schools to increase their energy efficiency; improve the use and maintenance of computers; improve the teaching of mathematics and science; and improve school-based assessment. The project also supports the decentralization process, as primary education increasingly becomes the responsibility of municipalities.

The MoES has committed to provide up to \$600,000 to renovate schools; adopt a strategic "maintenance and sustainability plan" to maintain computers; and collaboratively carry out on-going math and science training for teachers.

"Last month, our project team visited eight cities in Macedonia to introduce USAID's Primary Education Project to municipalities and schools and listen to the views of School Directors and Mayors about the needs of Macedonia's primary schools." said Keith Prenton, Chief of Party of USAID's Primary Education Project, "The signing of this MoU demonstrates our partnership with the Ministry of Education and Science."

#### NOTES TO EDITORS:

The American people, through USAID, have invested more than \$450 million in Macedonia since 1993. More than 20 projects worth \$20 million a year are currently being implemented. These projects are designed to support Macedonia's transition to a free market-based, multi-ethnic democracy. They include initiatives to accelerate economic growth, develop democratic institutions, and educate citizens for a modern economy. USAID provides economic and humanitarian assistance in more than 100 countries. For more information, please visit <http://macedonia.usaid.gov>